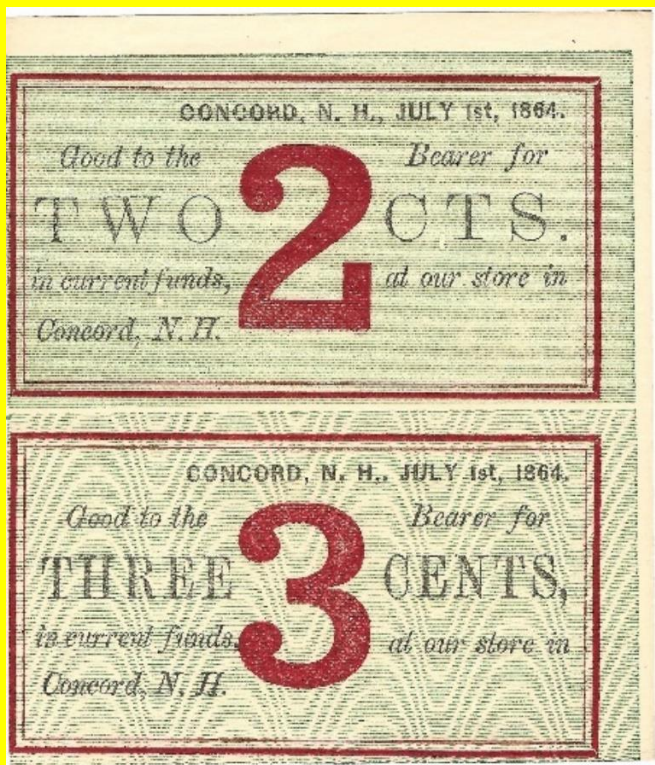


Maryland Numismatist



New England Civil War Scrip



***Dues are due! Renewal form page 21.
Spring Whitman Expo Exhibits***

Spring, 2025 Volume 53 – No. 1

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is published three times annually by MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

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The Board of Directors of MSNA is composed of the officers and past presidents.

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President's Message

I've just finished writing my third article on some of the Civil War scrip in MSNA's John B. Henry Collection. In this issue, I focus on notes from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. There will be more articles in coming issues on the rest of the scrip.

One of the (usually) enjoyable parts of writing the articles is the research that accompanies them. The research is sort of like exploring a tree. You start with the trunk, that is, the note itself. Easy enough to do – there are plenty of research assets available in print and on line to learn about the note and its issuer. But what about the bank the note is payable on, as is frequently the case with Civil War scrip? And now there is the bank building to learn about. Or the merchant's building. One merchant's building is now apartments, one bank's building is occupied by a financial services firm, and another's is being turned into residential units.

Then there are the vignettes on the notes. One auction cataloger, Heritage, claims that Harvey Parker is pictured on some of the Parker House notes. John Muscalus' book claims it is Daniel Webster. I've looked at the note and contemporary pictures of Webster. I think it is Webster – sorry, Heritage – but am not entirely certain.

As you go up the tree from the trunk to the limbs to the branches to the leaves, you learn more and more. For example, Parker House lends its name to eponymous rolls. They are tasty and typically New England. And they were obviously first made at Parker House. The origin story is that in the 1870s a disgruntled hotel baker threw a batch of unfinished rolls into the oven after an altercation with a hotel guest. So a 163 year-old note leads me to a dinner roll with an intriguing, but unverifiable back-story. How's that for history in your hands, just because you are a numismatist?

MSNA has a number of exhibits that it can bring to your club for a presentation. In addition to the Civil War scrip, the John B. Henry collection has Civil War tokens, Revolutionary notes and more. Allow us to share with your club. And if you have us come, we'll bring free MSNA giveaways for those in attendance. You can contact me at MSNAonline@gmail.com.

Happy collecting.
Ken



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I have handled, developed and sold many of the finest rare coin collections in the country including:

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- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

- Assist in the formation (or location) of any U.S. coin or currency collection
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- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



LM #664



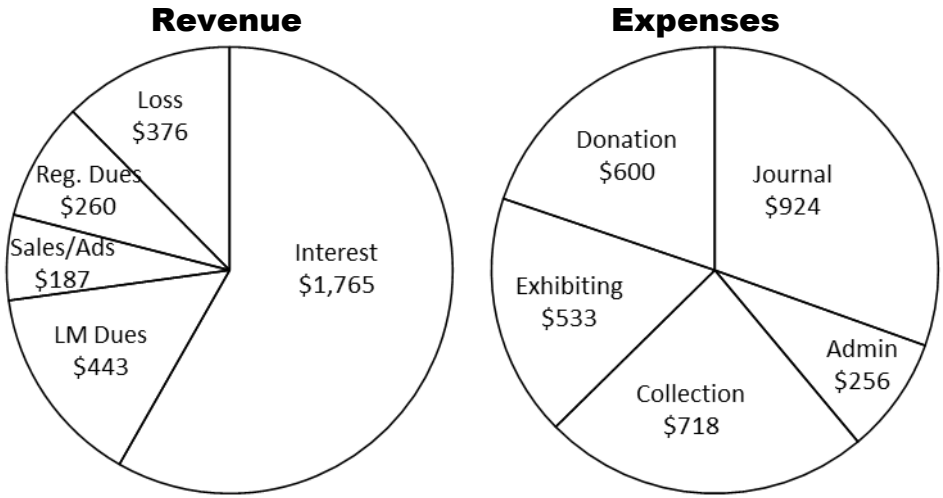
P·N·G

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Treasury Notes by Simcha Kuritzky, Treasurer and Editor

Below are two pie charts that show our results for fiscal year 2024 (ended November 30). Each circle represents the same number of dollars; because we had more outlays than revenue, the difference is shown as a loss near the top left revenue pie chart.



Actually, the club had an operating profit of \$224. Our donation of \$600 to the Gaithersburg Community Museum so they could buy a First National Bank of Gaithersburg \$10 note made our accrued outlays exceed income. The largest impact of using accrual versus cash basis of accounting is on life memberships—revenues earned for life membership are from payments received years ago, so regular dues and life membership dues are shown separately. Sales is mostly journal advertising, but there were a few souvenir card sales and donations. The biggest change was interest. We now have a money market account which pays five times as much as our old CDs. Administrative expenses include post office box rental, membership dues in other organizations, and the small amount of cost of goods sold. Expenses associated with the John Henry collection include the safe deposit box rental and insurance. Exhibiting is mostly the cost of prizes, but also includes free memberships for non-member exhibitors, and reimbursing the Exhibit Chairman’s expenses.

Membership Report

The MSNA by-laws require the treasurer to prepare an annual report on the membership. I am also giving the report for all years back to 2017.

MSNA has six types of membership. Regular, club and junior members must pay each year. Life, club life, and honorary life members are inducted once and stay members until they pass away, the club is dissolved, or they resign. Honorary life members become life members immediately, while regular and club life members must be a member in good standing the three years previous. So the only changes to life membership are new members and deceased members (which includes those who resign or who can no longer be reached by mail), while regular members can join, renew (which can be paid in advance or arrears), lapse, or return after a lapse of at least one year.

Our membership continues to increase, but three of those memberships were complimentary: two to new exhibitors and one to the Newman Numismatic Portal so they always get a copy of our journal.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Regular							
New	5	2	1	1		2	5
Renewed	32	23	18	17	15	15	17
Returned	3		3	1	3	1	2
Convert to life mem.			-1	-1		-1	
Lapsed	-6	-17	-6	-4	-4	-2	-1
Total	40	25	22	19	18	18	24
Note: Total = New + Renewed + Returned = Previous Total + New + Returned – Convert to LM – Lapsed							
Life							
Begin	69	65	64	62	63	57	57
New			1	1		1	1
Deceased	-4	-1	-3		-6	-1	-4
End	65	64	62	63	57	57	54
Combined	105	89	84	82	75	75	78

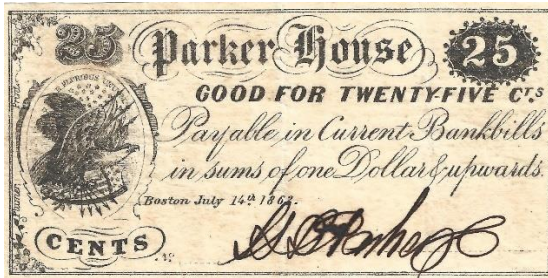
Some New England Scrip of the Civil War

by Kenneth Swab

[The MSNA John B. Henry collection was given to MSNA in 1984 by a founder of MSNA. The collection consists of over 350 colonial and Continental notes, 300 Civil War tokens and Sutler tokens, and three dozen obsolete currency notes and scrip, mostly from the Civil War era. This is the fourth of a continuing series of articles on items in the collection. MSNA member clubs are invited to contact MSNA to have a display of items at a club meeting.]

The Civil War drove coins from circulation, particularly those struck from silver or gold, but even copper coins disappeared. For denominations under one dollar, the United States attempted to meet the shortage with the issuance of postal currency beginning with the issuance of so-called Postage Currency beginning on August 21, 1862.

The John B. Henry collection contains Massachusetts and New Hampshire scrip issued in 1862 by several merchants. This was a period when most coins, particularly silver ones, had become scarce in circulation, and the above-mentioned federal Postal Currency had yet to be widely circulated.



The collection holds a pair of 25-cent scrip notes from Parker House in Boston, dated July 14, 1862. The uniface notes have a patriotic emblem on the left side, with an eagle holding arrows in its talons on a Union shield, with furling flags above, and the motto “E Pluribus Unum” above all. The notes, like nearly all scrip of the period, are payable only “in sums of one Dollar & upwards.” The unnumbered notes are hand-signed by H[arvey]. D. Parker, who opened the Parker House Hotel in 1855. The hotel was the first in the United States to offer the European Plan, that is, a rate that included only lodging without any meals. Eight days before assassinating President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth stayed two nights at the hotel while visiting his brother Edwin Booth, who was performing in Boston. Booth was seen practicing at a firing range near the Parker House.

Two other series of Parker House scrip were also issued. The first consists of 5- and 10-cent scrip dated October 15, 1862. Unnumbered, these notes lack vignettes, but have ornate green backs with a large denomination number in the center. They are frequently found with the backs upside down relative to the face. Second is a series of 5-, 10-, 25- and 50-cent notes dated December 1, 1862 with printed serial numbers. The patriotic theme was omitted from these issues and replaced with portraits. Benjamin Franklin appears on the 5- and 10-cent notes. Heritage identifies Parker's portrait as appearing on the 25- and 50-cent notes but John Muscalus identifies the figure as Daniel Webster. The notes were printed in sheets of nine notes – three 5 cents and two each of the 10-, 25- and 50-cent notes. All notes on each sheet carry the same serial number, meaning that there are identically numbered notes of each denomination.



In Marlborough, Massachusetts, about 30 miles due west of Boston, the general store of Bigelow, Morse & Co., located on Lincoln Street, issued scrip directing the Cashier of the Northborough Bank to pay the bearer “in current Bank Bills when presented in sums of one Dollar and upwards.” Bigelow Morse issued 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-cent notes. MSNA has a uniface 5-cent note dated November 1, 1862. Northborough Bank was located about five miles west of Marlborough. The note is hand numbered (No. 999!) and hand-signed. The Northborough Bank was established in 1854 and became the Northborough National Bank (charter 1279) in 1865. The bank lasted until 1982, when it was absorbed by the People's Bank of Worcester. The bank building still stands and is in use, but not as a bank.

In New Hampshire, White & Hill, druggists in Nashua, issued 25-cent scrip (Lafond 1150-00.25-1) payable at the Indian Head Bank. The October 1, 1862 uniface notes are hand-numbered and hand-signed and feature a vignette on the right side of an Indian seated on a rock. Unusual for Civil War era scrip, it does not require presentation in sums of one dollar or more. The Indian Head Bank was established in 1852, and

converted to a national bank in 1865 (charter 1310). It was eventually acquired by Fleet-Norstar Financial in 1988.



Morrill & Silsby, printers and binders, printed scrip for use by merchants. MSNA has a partial sheet of unissued 2- and 3-cent notes, (Lafond 260-00.02-1 and 260-00.03-1) dated July 1, 1864. The date is unusually late for Civil War scrip, as most date from 1862 or occasionally 1863. The simple uniface notes are “good to the bearer in current funds at our store in Concord, N.H.” with space for the issuer to put in their name. Lafond reports that Morrill & Silsby and others issued the

scrip, but an Internet search of auctions past and present shows only unissued specimens.



Another Concord merchant, George Hutchins & Co., issued scrip drawn on the Union Bank in Concord. The 10-cent note (Lafond 250-00.10-1) in the MSNA collection is dated Nov. 1, 1862, is printed in green and is hand-numbered and hand-signed. It is payable “in current funds when presented with out Checks in sums of even Dollars.” a “T E N” in red on the face is accompanied by red rosettes over the 10 and X counters in the upper

corners. The reverse carries the firm's name and identifies them as Flour Dealers and Wholesale Grocers inside a frame. The Union Bank existed from about 1860 to 1885.

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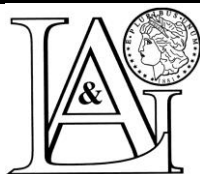
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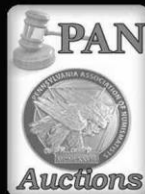
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[Editor's Note: This is the sixth in a series of articles profiling the various member and former member clubs of MSNA.]

MEMBER CLUB PROFILE

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY COIN CLUB

Founded in 1964, the Prince Georges County Coin Club (PGCCC) lasted three decades, dissolving in 1995. It shared many of its officers and board members with the geographically adjacent Washington Numismatic Society and Montgomery County Coin Club. PGCCC hosted its own coin shows starting in 1966, then annually from 1969-79, and later joined both the Tri-Club (1980-88) and Metropolitan Washington Numismatic Associations to hold larger coin shows sponsored by several local clubs. They hosted the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association coin show in Lanham in 1974, a two-evening grading seminar in 1986, and a number of other educational events for the general public, especially during National Coin Week. The club met in a number of different locations. Each meeting had member exhibits, an educational program, and auction. They also issued a number of elongated coins, wooden nickels and even a series of Franklin Mint silver 100 grain (6.9 gram) medals from 1971 to 1974.



Photos courtesy of Julian Leidman via eBay.

FUN Show Results



At the FUN Show in Orlando in January, MSNA Treasurer and Editor Simcha Kuritzky’s exhibit *Collecting Israel’s Commemoratives by Series* took third place in World Coins, and *A Zionist So-Called Dollar* took third place in Single-Case Exhibits. Also exhibited were *Engraved Coins of the “Three Abrahamic Faiths”* in Miscellaneous and *Medals of Puja* in Tokens and Medals.

Local News

In November, **Montgomery County Coin Club** Secretary **Erik Douglas** gave part one of his talk on grading U.S. coins with samples passed around, and part two was given in January. In December, the charity auction raised over \$1,100 for the Montgomery County Humane Society in memory of Scott Barman. The February meeting was cancelled due to snow, but Past President Kenneth Swab’s talk on brewery tokens from the U.S. Civil War and later will be given at the March 11 meeting.

At the **Washington Numismatic Society’s** November meeting, President Simcha Kuritzky gave a presentation on Israel’s Hanukka coins. The December meeting was the semi-annual pot-luck dinner. The January meeting featured Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington Second Consul and Fairfax Coin Club VP Michael Markowitz speaking on ancient coins of Roman Egypt. The February meeting featured a video on British Royal Mint 2024 commemorative coins.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, Middle River, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (sometimes), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.	Bowie	Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County		Middle River	

What's Your Sign?

Part Fifty-Nine: Planetary Magic Squares

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

The earliest references I can find to magic squares being associated with the various ancient planets (and thus, indirectly, to zodiac signs) is the famous *Occult Philosophy* published by Henry Cornelius Agrippa in 1531. This was republished in 1801 by Sir Francis Barrett as *The Magus*. If you've ever read Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, Victor Frankenstein starts his journey that would lead him to reanimate a corpse by chancing on a copy of Agrippa's *Occult Philosophy*. One of the more popular sections of the book describes how each of the ancient planets is associated with a magic square. Starting in the Greek fashion with the slowest (and we now know, furthest) planet, Saturn uses a 3x3 square, Jupiter 4x4, and so on until the Moon uses 9x9. A magic square contains numbers which add up to the same value in each row, column, and often, diagonal. The ones Agrippa uses and Barrett drew are normal magic squares, which means they are numbered sequentially starting with one. The 3x3 magic square is especially popular on amulets because it contains all the digits, and each column and row adds up to 15 which, in Hebrew numerology, is associated with God's name *Yah*. *The Magus* shows the magic squares using both Hindu-Arabic (western) numerals (on the next page) and using Hebrew letters in a system called *gematria*, where the first through ninth letters have values 1-9, the next nine have values 10-90, and the last four have 100-400. The amulets I show here use either Hebrew or western numerals.

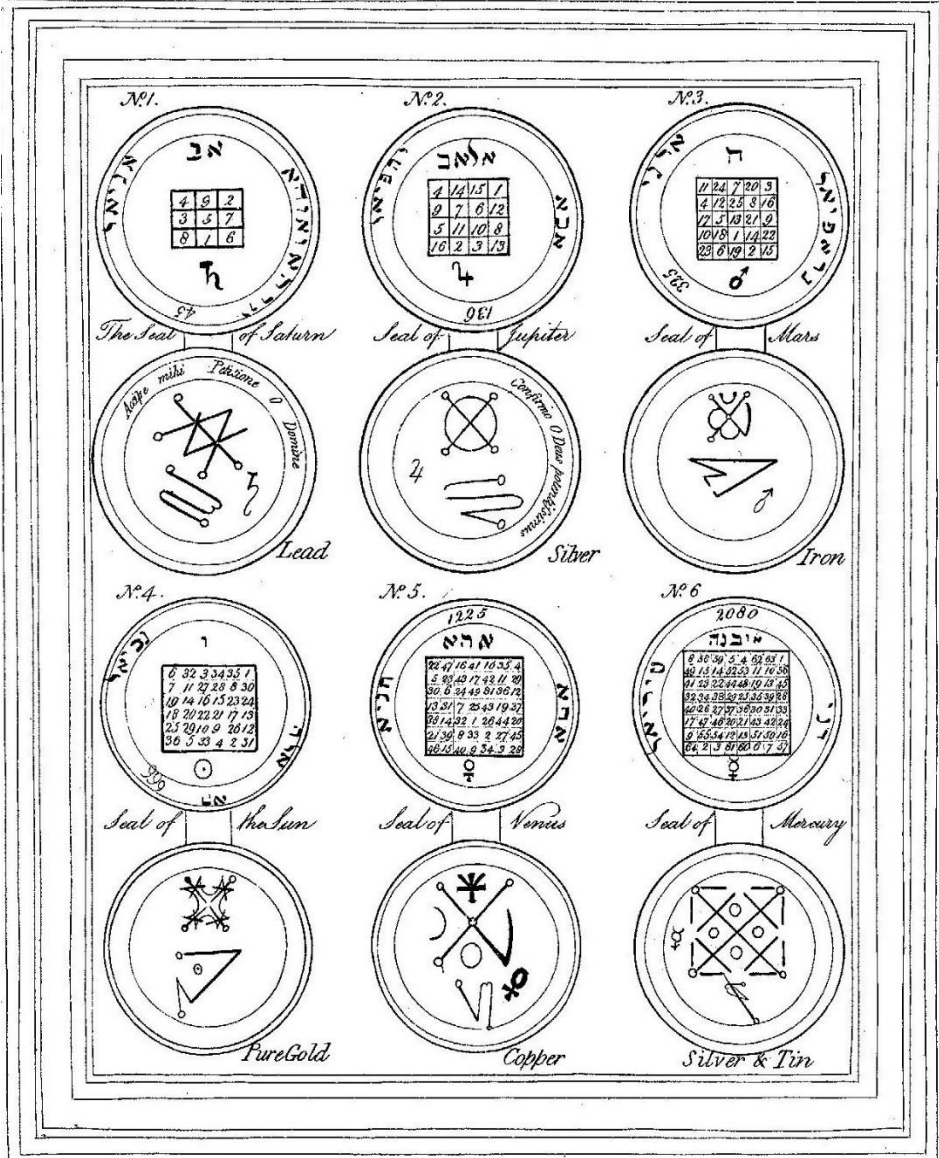


I start with a 33mm 9.5g lead amulet I commissioned back in 1994 from a coiner who worked with the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). They reproduced the 3x3 square in Hebrew, along with God's Name of 45, which is the Tetragrammaton spelled out using letters whose values add up to 45. The other side has the angel names and sigils, the planet name in Hebrew and its sigil, as well as *Mah* another of God's names

with a value of 45, which is the sum of all the digits in the magic square. The amulet on the end is called the Universal Talisman, and includes the Saturn magic square rotated 180°. Around are all the planet sigils and a hexagram. Inside are angel sigils and numeric values associated with Mars and its magic square. It is 35mm 15.8g bronze.

Magic Seals, or Talismans.

Plate. Fig 1.st





The same magic square, with the first and third rows swapped, appears on a 29mm 3.4g aluminum token advertising the Irish Hospital Sweeps. The token might date back to 1937.



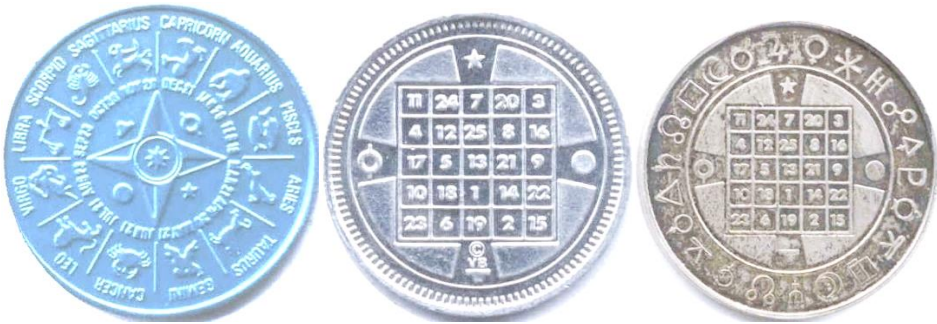
The most popular version seems to be Jupiter, since I found five amulets using that magic square. The earliest appears to be from the 1600 or 1700s and looks cast. The high-relief obverse shows a woman kneeling before a seated king with two sigils beneath. Next to the king is the angel name Satquiel and the zodiac sign Cancer, while next to the woman is Anael and Pisces. The low-relief reverse shows the 4x4 magic square with Satquiel beneath and sigils around. It might be billon, 36mm and 9.9 grams.



The next one is gilded silver, 38mm and 24 grams. Although minted recently, the seller claimed it was a copy of an amulet that Mormon founder Joseph Smith owned, but the Church now says that's questionable. It tries to copy the amulet Barrett designed, but the Hebrew letters are even more mangled than what appears in *The Magus*. This is the only one of Barrett's amulets that includes a Latin inscription, which may be why it was popular. This same magic square was engraved recently on a 37mm Turkish .435 fine silver 6 qirsh of 1833.



A smaller amulet with different sigils and an omega shows the same square. Last is a 35mm square 18.4 gram amulet made in Israel with the surrounding inscription describing it as a “planet Jupiter magic square of the Priest Nathaniel for prosperity and luck.”



An unusual zodiac medal featuring the Mars magic square was copyrighted by V.B. in 1970. It comes in two sizes: 32mm 2.8 gram aluminum and 40mm 22.3g bronze or 25.8g sterling silver. One side shows the 12 signs of the zodiac with their names and first date. The signs are grouped into four quadrants by season. From spring to winter, the symbols assigned are Quintas (star), Solos Apex (noonday sun), Pylonde (fulcrum), and Lunas (moonset). The other side has the magic square. The 40mm medals surround this by 22 planetary, elemental, and alchemical sigils, while the 32mm medals just have a toothed border. To find your daily lucky number, write out your birthday and today’s date (in the Gregorian calendar), and add up all the digits. If the sum is greater than 25, subtract 25. You “enter” the magic square at the symbol assigned to your zodiac sign and count left to right the number of squares that the sum equals. So if you were born January 1, 2000 and today is March 4, 2025, you would add $1+1+2+0+0+0+3+4+2+0+2+5 = 20$. Entering at the moonset symbol at left, you start with 17 as square 1 and count all the way around to 3. And tomorrow, your lucky number would be 4, followed by 12. Only one

of the medals I have has a ©VB under the magic square, but the instructions say ©1970 V.B.O.L. I have been unable to find out who or what VB or VBOL is.



I have two old amulets that show the sun's magic square. The first may be from the 1600 or 1700s. It is 48mm 28.3g and possibly cast iron. The side with the magic square in Hebrew includes the angel sigils and possibly a lion head at top. The other side shows an animal at top with three Hebrew words that add up to six, then the acronym for Exodus 15:11, which appears in full around the outside "who is like unto you, God?" A radiate sun is below.



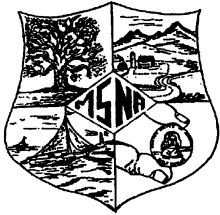
The second amulet was engraved on a 34mm British penny which was minted between 1825 and 1860. It has the magic square in western numerals with the same three Hebrew words plus an angel name and 666 (the sum of the value of all the numbers in the squares), while the angel sigils are on the other side. This photo comes from *The Numismatist* in an article I wrote back in 2003. The actual coin I own is dark, and the photographer had to use strong light to bring out the engraving.



Next are two amulets with the 7x7 magic square of Venus. Both have basically the same design, based on a drawing from the 1700s. One the obverse is Venus in a gown standing next to her young son Cupid, with her right hand resting on his head, and the legend VENUS above. The other side has just the magic square. The 28.5mm 5g white metal amulet appears to be modern, while the 39mm 30g copper one (whose dimensions are very close to the Russian 3 kopek of 1840-47) could be from the 1700s or 1800s. The copper amulet changes some of the numbers in the square so one of the rows and four of the columns do not add up to 175.



I haven't found any amulets with the 8x8 square of Mercury or 9x9 square of the moon, but this 34mm 17.9g silver love token on a Russian ruble of 1895-1915 has a drawing of Mercury (though to me he looks more like the flying nun) and a 9x9 magic square where some of the digits are upside-down, some squares have dots instead of numbers, some of the numbers are repeated, and the numbers don't add up the same in the rows and columns. The square is set in a nonagon with a small crescent inside the nonagon at bottom and five sigils around. Maybe someone was practicing stamping numerals and engraving, because this is one of the crudest engraved amulets I have seen.



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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

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For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of \$15 (club), \$10 (individual) or \$2 (under 18) must accompany this form for calendar year dues (\$5 after August 1). Life member upgrades are \$300 (clubs), \$200 (age 50 & under), \$125 (51-65), \$75 (66 & over). You must be a regular member for 3 years before attaining life membership. Pay by check, money order, or PayPal.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

8 Mar. – Cambridge Coin Show, American Legion Post 91, Sunburst Highway (Route 50), Cambridge, MD; 11-5. (443) 515-0311

16 Mar. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

27-29 Mar. – Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. MSNA will hold its annual exhibit competition at this show.

12 April – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Bldg., 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

4 May – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

14 June – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Bldg., 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

19-21 June – Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

24 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

4 Oct. – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Bldg., 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

26 Oct. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

6-8 Nov. – Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. MSNA will hold its annual meeting at this show.

15 Nov. – Cambridge Coin Show, American Legion Post 91, Sunburst Highway (Route 50), Cambridge, MD; 11-5. (443) 515-0311

6 Dec. – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Bldg., 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

7 Dec. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

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